U.S. Application No. 10/787,108

REMARKS

The Applicants request consideration of each of the pending claims, which have been presented pursuant to the Office Action dated January 18, 2008, indicating constructive election of claims 1-21 and withdrawal of claims 22-24.

In a telephone interview conducted on February 5, 2008, the Applicants, through their representative, traversed the finding that claims 1-21 and claims 22-24 belong to different categories of invention. However, the "restriction" was not withdrawn pursuant to the telephone interview, and thus the claims have been amended pursuant to the "restriction", as required by the Examiner.

The Applicants note that amended claim 1 substantially contains the subject matter of claims 1, 4 and 5 as originally examined. Accordingly, claims 4 and 5 have been canceled.

Further, claim 8 substantially contains the subject matter of claims 1, 7 and 8. Accordingly, claim 7 has been canceled.

Claim 10 has been amended to include the subject matters of claims 10, 11, 13 and 14, and thus claims 11, 13 and 14 have been canceled.

Claim 16 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 17 and 18, and thus claims 17 and 18 have been canceled. Claims 20-24 have also been canceled, and new claim 25, dependent from claim 1, has been added. All claims are believed to belong to the originally-examined, constructively-elected invention, although the Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' representative at the number below to discuss any claims that are believed to be subject to further restriction.

9

U.S. Application No. 10/787,108

All of the pending claims are distinguishable from Belani, U.S. Patent

No. 6,772,350 (Belani), which was cited against claims 1-21 in the earlier Office

Action. In particular, while Belani is directed to controlling access to resources in a

distributed environment, Belani does not disclose or fairly suggest the claimed

second means that checks, when there is a request from the user to change the

permission setting value for any permission level other than the highest-level

operation for any of the object information items, consistency of the permission

setting value for each level higher than the level for which the change request has

been made with the permission setting value for which the change request has been

made. Further, Belani does not disclose the claimed second means that corrects,

when there is contradiction in the consistency, the permission setting value for each

level higher than the level for which the request to change the setting value has been

made.

Belani also does not disclose means which checks, when there is a request

from the user to change the permission setting value for an arbitrary one of the levels

for any of the object information items, consistency of the permission setting value

belonging to each of the object information items higher in rank than the object

information item to which the permission setting value that has received the change

request belongs with the permission setting value that has received the change

request. Belani also does not disclose means which corrects, when there is

contradiction in the consistency, the permission setting value belonging to any of the

object information items higher in rank than the object information item to which the

setting value that has received the change request belongs. This argument

distinguishes claim 1 and claim 8 as amended.

10

Concerning new claim 25, Belani does not disclose or fairly suggest that when a permission setting value of communication capability information is changed from a not permitted state to a permitted state, the permission setting value of identification information is set to a permitted state; and when the permission setting value of the identification information is changed from a permitted state to a not permitted state, the permission setting value of the communication capability information is set to a not permitted state. More generally, Belani does not disclose or fairly suggest that when a permission setting value of a higher level first type of information is changed from a not permitted state to a permitted state, the permission setting value of a lower level second type of information is changed to a permitted state in response to the change of state of the first information setting values, and when the permission setting value of the lower level second type of information is changed from a permitted state to a not permitted state, the permission setting value of the higher level first type of information is changed to a not permitted state in response to the change of state of the second information setting values.

Column 11, lines 50-60 of Belani seem to suggest that a permission value can be automatically inherited from a high level information to a low level information when no permission value was previously set to the low level information. However, this does not comport with the requirement for the permission setting value to change for one information in response to the permission setting value changing for the other information.
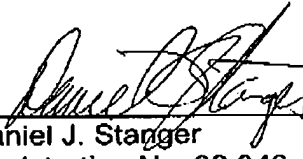
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

11

To the extent necessary, the Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger, Malur & Brundidge, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. NIT-415).

Respectfully submitted,

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12